

THE ORIGIN
OF THE
GIFFORDS OF TWYFORD.

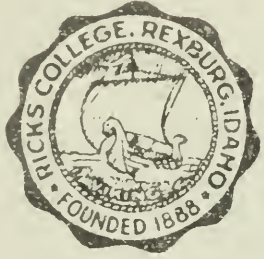
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[Reprinted from *The Genealogist*, N.S., Vol. XXXVIII,
October, 1921, and January, 1922.]

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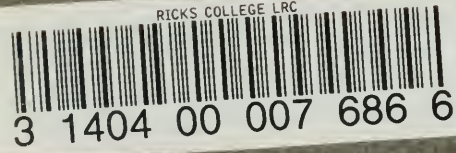
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THE ORIGIN OF THE GIFFORDS OF TWYFORD.

The purpose of this paper is to show the origin of the ancient Buckinghamshire family of the Giffords of Twyford, whose first known ancestor, John Gifford le Boef, appears in the *Placita Quo Warranto* in 12 Edward I when he pleaded that he had been enfeoffed of two parts of the vill of Twyford by Robert Fitz-Nicholas, and as Robert Fitz-Nicholas died in the first year of Edward I's reign he must have been so enfeoffed before the latter year.

I expect to show in this paper that this John Gifford of Twyford was the son of Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield, and that this Osbert was, in turn, the brother of Elias Gifford, the Baron of Brimsfield, who died about 32 Henry III when his *Inq. Post Mortem* was endorsed and his son and heir (John) Gifford, afterwards the famous soldier of the wars of Earl Simon, was stated to be sixteen years of age. (*Cal. Inq. Post Mortem*, Henry III, vol. i, No. 124.)

The late General Wrottesley in his *Giffords from the Conquest* collected a good deal of data concerning the various Osbert Giffords living at the commencement of Henry III's reign, but as he was concentrating upon his own ancestors, the Giffords of Chillington, he did not get all the material possible regarding the different Osberts, and some of his conclusions regarding them and the Twyford family were, on this account, erroneous, and were not made upon sufficient study of this perplexing problem. General Wrottesley came to the conclusion that the Twyford Giffords descended in some way from Osbert Gifford, the son of Richard, the Justiciar of Henry II, and this conclusion led him to make a curious error regarding the Twyford family at the beginning of the fifteenth century, when he stated that Katherine Gifford, who married the Lord Chief Justice Billing, was not the daughter of Roger Gifford of Twyford but of another Roger Gifford, whom General Wrottesley called of Stanlac in the county of Oxford. I expect to show, however, that Baker, the historian of Northamptonshire, was quite correct when he made her the daughter of Roger Gifford of Twyford.

We now come to the question of the parentage of John Gifford le Boef of Twyford. It will, I think, not be questioned by anybody that both Baker and General Wrottesley were correct when they stated that the Manor of Helidon was one of the estates of the Twyford Giffords. This fact is amply proved by the suit in the *De Banco* Rolls, Trinity Term, 3 Henry V, 618, m. 317, where the then infant, Thomas Gifford of Twyford by his guardian William Rokesburgh claimed Helidon against John Stokes and Isabel his wife (*i.e.*, the widow of Roger of Twyford and the mother of Thomas); and by the will of Thomas Gifford of Twyford, proved 7 Feb. 1550-1, wherein the testator mentions his estate in "Helydon." (P.C.C. Bucke 4.)

In the Feet of Fines, Divers Counties, Bundle 284, file 20, No. 44, we find a fine made in the octave of the Holy Trinity, 4 Edward I, before the Justices at Westminster, between "John Gifford, son of

Osbert Gifford," querant, and Agnes Banzan, deforciant, for the moiety of the Manor of Helidon, except one virgate, and in consideration therefor John granted her the aforesaid moiety to hold for life at 1d. rent yearly and the usual service, and also 10 librates of land in Twyford and Charndon in Bucks, for life at 1d. rent yearly, and after her death the same to remain to John and his heirs rendering therefor yearly a pair of white gloves or 1d. at Easter.

This fine is of course of the utmost importance in determining the origin of the Twyford Giffords and proves that John of Twyford was the son of an Osbert Gifford. It now remains to be shown what Osbert was the father of John and then who were the parents of that Osbert. At the beginning of Henry III's reign there were living three Osberts. These I shall designate as Osbert, son of Richard the Justiciar, otherwise Osbert Gifford of Norfolk; Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield; and Osbert Gifford, son of King John. I expect to show that the second of these was the father of John Gifford le Boef and that his wife was Isabella, daughter of Alan de Bocland and Alice Murdac, and that Osbert, son of Richard, the Justiciar, married Isabella de Frivill.

The first question is to identify the father of John of Twyford. For this purpose it becomes necessary to study the history of the manors of Astwell and Tansor in the county of Northants. The Inquisition of Osbert Gifford and Alice Murdac was taken 24 July, 31 Henry III (Cal. *Inq. Post Mortem*, Henry III, No. 112), and the lands belonging to Osbert and Alice are carefully differentiated. Their heir is stated to be Osbert, son of Osbert, and his age is given as 12½, 13 and 13½ years.

Osbert held in Somerset the manor of Foxcote of Maurice de Berkeley by service of half a knight's fee. In Gloucester he held in Pinchecomb 1 carucate and 28s. rent of the King in socage, and in Acton vill he held 40s. rent of Elias Gifford. In Devonshire, Hekebokel manor, including Compton Hanknolle and Hoo, were some time held by Osbert and his wife Isabel, out of which the Prior of Plimpton has 12s. frankalmoin and the advowson of the church of Ekebokel. In Oxford Alice Murdac held of her sister, Beatrice, one-fourth of Stanlac manor; in Dadington she held one-third of the manor of the King by service of one-third of two knights' fees; in Nether Horton she held 44s. rent of the wardship of Osbert Gifford, and in Derneford she held 60s. rent. In Northants Alice held one-fourth of one half of the town of Teynford of the Honour of Wallingford, and in Tannemer (Tansor) one carucate held of Ralph de Kameis (Camoyes). In Dorset Osbert Gifford held Langham manor in Gillingham *in capite* rendering one pair of spurs yearly or 4d., and also the manor of Winterborn Hueton, which was held of Reginald de Mohun at fee farm for £14 10s. yearly and the service of two fees.

This property descended to Osbert Gifford, the baron of Edward I, who was sued in the 19 Edward I by Sarah, who was the wife of his son, Osbert, deceased, claiming her dower thirds in the manors of Astwell and Faucotes in Northants, Dadinton in Oxon, Winterburn in Dorset, and Foxcote and Theaumes in Somerset. (*De Banco* Roll, 87, Hil. 19 Edward I, m. 128). A suit brought by Philip de Willugby,

the King's Clerk, against Osbert Gifford, Senr., in the quindene of the Hilary term, 20 Edward I, shows that Sara had recovered her dower in Astwell and Dadyngton and that Osbert, son of Osbert, left a daughter Alice, who was his heir. In the same suit we find mention of the tenements in Astwell held by John Gifford which were part of the dower of Sara. (*Coram Rege* Roll, 131 m. 42 ; Easter, 20 Edward I.)

We must now consider in particular the manors of Astwell and Tansor. On the morrow of All Souls', 53 Henry III, a fine was levied between Osbert Gifford querant and Ralph de Wedon deforciant for 15 librates of land in Astwell and Faucote, and Osbert in consideration gave Ralph two carucates of land in Crewlton for life, he rendering yearly at Easter a pair of white gauntlets or 1d., and on his death to revert to Osbert and his heirs. In the *Feudal Aid* for 1284 we find that Osbert Gifford held in Astwell and Faucote of Ralph de Wedon, and in the *Aid* of 1428 John Stokes (*i.e.*, the second husband of Isabel, the widow of Roger Gifford of Twyford, *Cf.* "New England Hist. Genealogical Register," vol. lxxiv, p. 268) held in Astwell, Faucote, and Syresham the lands formerly held by Robert Gifford and the Prior of Barkeley, of value of 3s. 4d.

In Trinity Term, 4-5 Edward II, Richard de Arcey and wife Alice claimed against George, son of John Gifford, two parts of the manor of Astwell in right of Alice, by the writ of "de forma donacionis," and George pleaded that he held by the gift of John Gifford of Twyford and called upon his son John to warrant. (*De Banco Roll*, Trinity Term, 4-5 Edward II, m. 91.) There can be little doubt that the plaintiff in this suit was Alice, daughter of Osbert Gifford, the younger, and Sara, who is mentioned in the *Coram Rege* Roll, Easter Term, 20 Edward I, above cited. In the Assize Roll of Northants, 3 Edward III, Edward, son of John Gifford, claimed against John Gifford of Twyford the manor of Astwell, and declared that Osbert Gifford gave it to his son John and the heirs of his body and that upon the death of John, son of Osbert, it ought to descend to the said Edward, the son and heir of the said John. In reply John of Twyford pleaded that John never had anything in the said manor by reason of the gift of Osbert. At the trial Edward defaulted and was declared to be in mercy. (Northampton Assize Roll 629, 3 Edward III, m. 1, 2 and 9.) This suit was one of a number brought by John, son of Osbert Gifford, and his son, Edward, after his father's death, at the commencement of Edward III's reign, to recover the lands of Osbert Gifford, the Baron of Edward I's time. It appears that this Osbert had aliened a great part of his lands to Hugh le Despencer and also to one John Abel and his wife Margery, and, upon the fall of the Despenchers, John, Osbert's son, came forward with his claims (*Cf.* Cal. Inq. Misc., 6 March, 1 Edward III, and Cat. Ancient Deeds A 249, A 250, A 252, A 253, A 5802, A 5003, A 6864, and also *Dorset Fines*, 25 Edward I, p. 221). Ancient Petitions file 295, No. 14720 A is a petition of John, son of Osbert Gifford, regarding the manor of Winterburn Hewton in Dorset, that shows that Osbert Gifford had aliened the said manor to Hugh le Despencer, disinheriting

John, and that Hugh had had John imprisoned during the life of Osbert, and now, upon the forfeiture of Hugh, John seeks to recover his patrimony. Ancient Petitions file 295, No. 14720 B (writ dated 28 April, 5 Edward III) shows that John had died shortly before, and his son, Edward, brought a similar petition to the preceding. In 2 Edward III, Edward, son of John Gifford, sued John Gifford of Twyford for the manor of Ackote in Devon, and Joan, who was the wife of Robert Bendyn, for the manors of Compton Gifford and Eckenokeland in the same county. (*De Banco* Roll, 275, Michaelmas 2 Edward III, m. 330.)

We must now turn once more to the subsequent history of Astwell manor. On 5 Feb. 1429-30 a bond was given by John Stokes of Twyford, co. Bucks (*i.e.*, the second husband of Isabel, widow of Roger Gifford) and Thomas Gifford of Twyford, to Thomas Chambre, William Vaux and Thomas Tresham to give Alianora, daughter of William Vaux deceased, a sufficient estate for her life in the manors of Astwell and Helidon in Northants and in two carucates of land at Water Stratford co. Bucks. (Close Rolls, 8 Henry VI, 280, m. 13 *dorso*.) This was the marriage settlement of Thomas Gifford of Twyford upon his wife Eleanor Vaux (*Cf.* New England Historic Genealogical Register, vol. lxxiv, pp. 267-268). In 36 Henry VI Sir Thomas Billing and his wife Katherine were querants, and Thomas Gifford and his wife Alienora were deforciant of Giffords manor in Astwell (*Cf.* Bridges' *Northamptonshire*, vol. i, p. 214). In the *Coram Rege* Roll, Easter Term, 17 Edward IV, No. 62 m. 20 (Northants) Thomas Billing, knight, Chief Justice of King's Bench, entailed the manor of Astwell called Byllings manor held by Thomas Bylling and Katherine his wife, and the ultimate remainder was to the right heirs of Roger Gifford, the father of Katherine the wife of Thomas Bylling. This settlement was dated 20 Oct. 16 Edward IV.

These documents show that Osbert Gifford, the Baron of Edward I, acquired Astwell from Ralph de Wedon, and that he must have enfeoffed John Gifford of Twyford of a part thereof. That his son and grandson sought to recover from the Twyford family without success and that it descended to Roger Gifford of Twyford, who died in 1409 (*Inq. Post Mortem*, Chanc. Series, Henry IV, file 71, No. 19) leaving his son and heir Thomas Gifford aged one year and more. Katherine, the daughter of Roger, married Sir Thomas Billing, the Lord Chief Justice of Henry VI and Edward IV, and Astwell was eventually granted by Thomas Gifford to Billing and his wife.

We now turn to the manor of Tansor in Northants. We have seen that Alice Murdac, whose *Inq. Post Mortem* was taken in the 31st year of Henry III, held one carucate in Tansor of Ralph de Camoys at his death. In the *Nomina Villarum* 1316 we find that Taneshouere (Tansor) vill was held by the Abbot de Crouland, John Gifford, Ralph Camoys and Elias de Tyndale.

Fifteen days before St. Hilary, 9 Edward III, a fine was levied between William Casse querant and Ralph de Cammoys chevaler, deforciant, of the manor of Tanesore, and among the rights granted to

Casse was "the homage of John Gifford le Boef of Twyford and his heirs of all the tenements which he held of the said Ralph in the vill of Tanesore." (Feet of Fines, Case 177, file 75, No. 161, Northants.) In 6 Richard II a fine was levied between John Holt and John Wade parson, querants, and Thomas Gifford chivaler, deforciant, of the manor of Tannesover and the 40s. rent which William de Themelby and Alice his wife held for her life therein. (Feet of Fines, Northants, Case 178, file 87, No. 55.) This was Thomas Gifford of Twyford who died in 18 Richard II (*Inq. Post Mortem*, Chanc. Series, Richard II, file 83, No. 16). Alice, the wife of William de Themelby, was the second wife and widow of Sir John Gifford of Twyford, father of Thomas.

A suit in the *De Banco* Rolls, 7 Richard II, was brought to show by what right William de Themelby and Alice, his wife, claimed 40s. rent in Tannesover. The suit states that long before the preceding fine was levied, Richard de Montford and William Dodyngseles were seised of the manor (clearly they were feoffees) and they granted the same to John Gifford of Twyford, knight, and Alice his then wife, for the term of their lives, remainder to Thomas, son of the said John Gifford, and his heirs, which grant was made on the Monday before Christmas, 37 Edward III (*De Banco* Roll, 491, m. 522, Mich., 7 Richard II). There can be no doubt but that Tansor held by Osbert Gifford the first descended to his son and heir Osbert, the Baron of Edward I, and that he enfeoffed John Gifford of Twyford thereof.

We now turn to a series of entries from Hunter's Select Rolls and the Calendar of the Patent Rolls. On 10 Jan. 1266, a pardon was granted to Geoffrey de Arcubus for the death of Hugh Ruffus at the instance of John Gifford, son of Osbert Gifford. (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1258-1266, p. 532.) On 24 Aug. 1265, a grant was made to John Gifford, *the younger*, of a carucate in Bekkebroc, co. Oxon, late the land of Jacob, son of Mosseus de London, a Jew, who was enfeoffed thereof by John del Escheker. (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1258-1266.) This entry can only refer to John Gifford le Boef of Twyford as the *Inqs. Post Mortem* of the Twyford family show them to have been seised of 5 messuages and 5 virgates of land in the vill of Bekebruk held of Roger Cheyne. (Cf. New England Hist. Geneal. Reg., vol lxxiv, p. 232 *et seq.*) It should be noted also that he is called John Gifford the younger because, as I shall later show, he was younger than John Gifford, the Baron of Brimsfield.

In 1266 a pardon was given to Osbert Gifford, in consideration of his strenuous aid at Evesham against the King's enemies for all his trespasses and excess in the late disturbance and for adhering to Simon de Montfort, sometime Earl of Leicester in the conflict at Lewes. (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1258-1266, p. 670.)

Turning now to Hunter's Select Rolls we find in the "Placita de Terris Datis et Occupatis occasione turbaciones in Regno Angliae" the following entries:—

John, brother of Osbert Gifford, seized the lands of Robert Fitz Ralph Fitz Nicholas in Bulme, after Evesham, and the King later gave them to the same John by the hand of John, son of the Presbyter. The

King also gave to John, brother of Osbert Gifford, the manor of Fan-bergh (Finebergh) which Gilbert le Poer seized after Evesham from the same Robert Fitz Ralph Fitz Nicholas.

On 10 March 1268 a pardon was given to Osbert Gifford and John Gifford for their trespasses by occasion of the non-observance of the Provisions of Oxford. (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1266 1272, p. 279.)

At this point we may, I think, sum up the evidence. There can be no doubt that Osbert Gifford, the Baron of Edward I, was identical with the Osbert, son of Osbert Gifford, whose *Inq. Post Mortem* was taken with that of Alice Murdac in 31 Henry III, because he is found holding their lands. This Osbert had, as the entries from Hunter's Select Rolls show, a brother John. We find that John Gifford of Twyford and his descendants held in Astwell and Tansor, the former of which was acquired by Osbert, the younger, and the latter of which appears in the *Inq. Post Mortem* of the elder Osbert in 31 Henry III. We further know that John Gifford of Twyford was the son of an Osbert Gifford, so it seems clear that he must be the younger son of Osbert Gifford whose *Inq. Post Mortem* was taken in 31 Henry III.

To the above evidence may be added the proof of the heraldic bearings of John Gifford of Twyford. In the Planché Roll, so called (*The Genealogist*, N.S., vol. iv, p. 18), John Gifford le Boef bore "Gules three lions passant in pale argent with a label of five pendants azure." (Cf. General Wrottesley's *Giffords from the Conquest: The Twyford Giffords*.) And in the Parliamentary Roll of Edward II, Sir John Gifford le Boef of Oxon. (i.e., at this time he was holding the lands in Coges, Somerton, and Fringingford, Oxon, which were part of the Arsic inheritance of his wife Alexandra de Gardinis) bore: "Gules three Lyons passant in pale argent with a label azure." These same arms, with a label sable for difference, were borne by Osbert Gifford, the Baron, in the Nobility Roll of 1297. (Cf., *Some Feudal Coats of Arms and Pedigrees*, by Foster.) And it may here be noted that the arms of John Gifford, Baron of Brimsfield, were given in 1295, in the Nobility, Parliamentary and Arundel Rolls as "Gules 3 Lyons passant in pale argent." (Cf. as above.)

It now appearing that Osbert Gifford, senr., had two sons, Osbert, aged between 12 and 13½ years in 31 Henry III, and a younger son John who became John Gifford of Twyford, we may now turn to the consideration of the date of the elder Osbert's death and why his *Inq. Post Mortem* was taken with that of Alice Murdac.

On 23 June 1236, an order was issued to Robert de Aundel', bailiff of Gillingham, to give Osbert Gifford service of 3 virgates belonging to Gervase Bailleben in Gillingham. (Calendar Close Rolls, 1234-1237, p. 281.) This refers to the Langham lands in Gillingham which appear in the *Inq. Post Mortem* of 31 Henry III, which were held *in capite* by service of rendering 1 pair of spurs yearly or 4d. (Cf. *Inq. Post Mortem supra*), because in the Calendar of Charter Rolls, vol. i, p. 103, there is recorded a gift to Osbert Gifford and his heirs of three virgates in Gillingham escheated to the King by reason of the flight of Gervase Baillebyen charged with robbery, by service of rendering a pair of spurs yearly or 4d., dated 22 Oct. 1229.

On 17 October, 21 Henry III (1237) an order was issued to the Sheriff of Gloucester, because it appeared to the King that Osbert Gifford held his lands in "Pichelecumb" in socage and because Isabel, who was the wife of Osbert, is the next of kin to the heir of Osbert, that Isabel is to have full seisin of the land with respect to the custody thereof. A similar order was issued to Robert de Audely regarding Osbert's lands in Gillingham. And at the same time the Lady Isabel Gifford made Hamo de Karevil her attorney against the Prior of Plimpton, with respect to the many contributions and services which he demands with reference to the tenement of Isabel, in Bocland and Hoo (Cal. Close Rolls, 1234-1237, pp. 503 and 571.) On 8 July, 26 Henry III (1242) an order was issued to G. de Segrave, forest justice, that as Isabel, who was the wife of Osbert Gifford, and had custody of his tenements in Gillingham, and was the next of kin to Osbert's heirs, is now dead, her mother Alice Murdac, the next of kin to Osbert's heirs since Isabel's death, shall have the custody of the said Gillingham lands of Osbert until the heir is of full age. (Cal. Close Rolls, 1237-42, p. 448.) In 31 Henry III (1247) Ralph Fitz Nicholas made a fine with the King for 40 marks for the custody of the lands and heir of Alice Harang and Osbert Gifford, until the coming of age of the heir and also for his marriage. (*Excerpt. e. Rot. Fin.*, p. 16.)

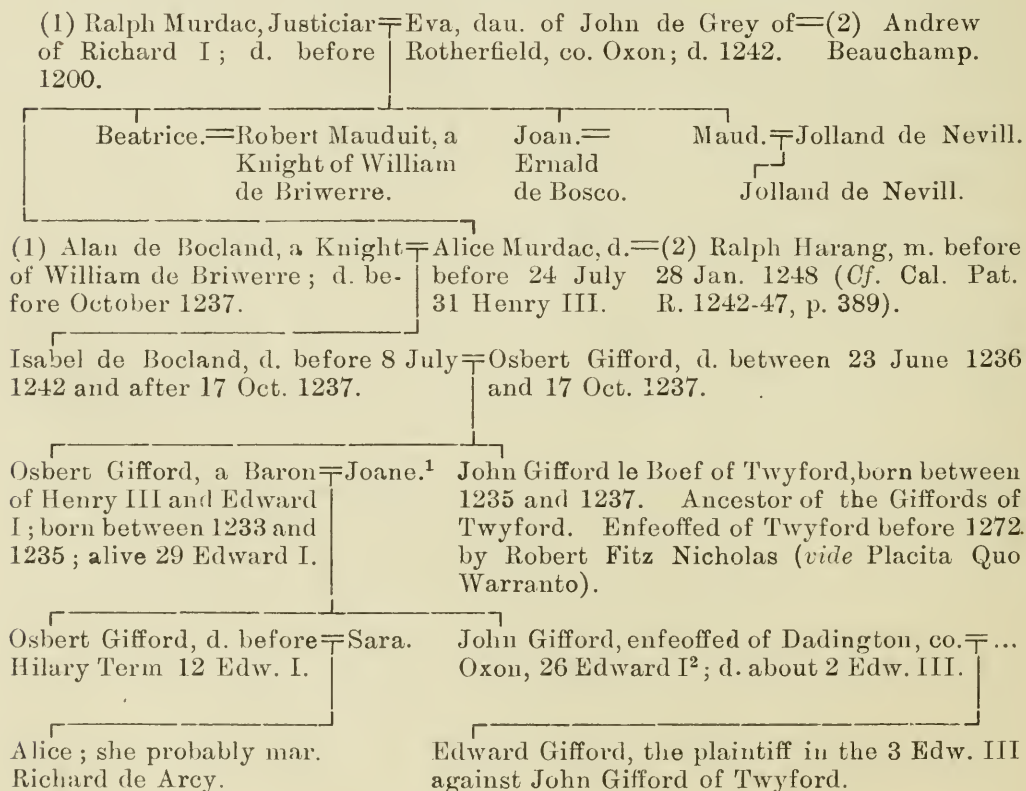
Turning now to the parentage of Isabel, the wife of Osbert Gifford, we find that in the *Rotuli Curie Regis* for 1199-1200, Alan de Bocland and the Prior of Plimpton were given a licence to levy a fine in Devonshire on the octaves of St. Hilary. In the Devon Assize Roll, 22 Henry III, Isabel Gifford sued the Prior of Plimpton to compel him to carry out the terms of a fine levied in the time of King John by Alan de Bocland, father of Isabel, whose heir she was, with the Prior of Plimpton respecting lands in Bocland. This Alan de Bocland was one of the knights of William de Briwerre, the councillor of King John, and was greatly trusted and advanced by him. On 18 August, 18 John (1216) an order was issued to the Sheriff of Oxford to give seisin to Robert Mauduit and Alan de Bocland, knights of William de Briwerre, of the lands given to Wido de Dive in fee in the manor of Dadington (co. Oxon). (*Rot. Litt. Claus. in turre Lond. asser.*)

There can be no doubt therefore that the first husband of Alice Murdac was Alan de Bocland, and after his death she married secondly Ralph Harang. She in turn was the daughter of Ralph Murdac, the Justiciar of Richard I, by his wife Eva de Grey. In the *Testa de Nevill*, Alice Murdac, daughter of Ralph, held in Dadington of the King 20 marks. She was under age in 1199-1200, when the King granted to William de Briwerre the custody and marriage of the daughters of Ralph Murdac (*Rot. Claus. in tur. Lond. Asser.*) The *Inq. Post Mortem* of Eva de Grey, widow of Ralph Murdac, was taken about 1242. She held in Stanlac 2 carucates and £17 17s. 3d. rents and customs; in Durneford she held 3 carucates of land, meadow and pasture, and 42s. 8d. rents and customs. These lands were held of Baldwin sometime Earl of Devon. Her heirs were Beatrice Murdac, late wife of Robert Mauduit, Alice wife of Ralph Hareng, Joan wife of Ernald

de Bosco, and Jolland son of Jolland de Nevill and Maud his wife. (*Cal. Inq. Post Mortem*, Henry III, No. 842.)

These records prove that Osbert Gifford died between 23 June 1236 and 17 Oct. 1237. That his wife was Isabel, daughter of Alan de Bocland, and his wife Alice Murdac, the daughter and co-heiress of Ralph Murdac, the Justiciar of Richard I and of Eva de Grey daughter of John de Grey of Rotherfield in Oxon. (*Cf. Eynsham Cartulary* in the Oxford Historical Society Collections, vol. i, pp. 84 and 90.) Isabel, the wife of Osbert Gifford, died before 8 July 1242 and Alice Murdac, who re-married Ralph Harang, a Judge of Henry III, was appointed guardian of her grandson, the infant Osbert Gifford, who was born between 1233 and 1235, and so John Gifford le Boef, his younger brother, must have been born in 1236 or 1237; he was therefore called the younger in the entry from the Close Rolls of 24 Aug. 1265, regarding the land in Bigbrooke before cited, to distinguish him from John Gifford, the Baron of Brimsfield, who was born in or about 1232-3.

We can now construct with certainty the following pedigree:—



¹ Sir Osbert Gifford and Johanna, his wife, agreed with Philip de Wylegby regarding the profits of the manors of Radingstone, co. Oxon; Astwell, Northants; Foxcote and Theames, co. Somerset; and Wynterburne, co. Dorset. Dated Feast of St. John before the Latin Gate, 20 Ed. I (Deeds Enrolled Exchequer Queen's Remembrancer, Edward I, Easter 20 Ed. I m. 18 dorso).

² *Cf. Chanc. Misc. Inq.*, file 106. no. 15, where it is stated that after enfeoffing his son John, Osbert disseised him and conveyed to John Abel and Margery, his wife, in 32 Edward I.

The next question to be considered is who was the father of Osbert Gifford who married Isabel de Bocland. This problem is greatly complicated by the fact that there were at the beginning of Henry III's reign three distinct Osbert Giffords, two of whom had wives Isabel. These were Osbert Gifford, son of Richard, the Justiciar of Henry II, whom I identify with Osbert Gifford of Norfolk; Osbert Gifford, the natural son of King John; and Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield. One of these three must be identical with the Osbert Gifford, who married Isabel de Bocland.

We shall consider first Osbert, the son of Richard Gifford the Justiciar. In 1226 William de Huntercombe sued Osbert Gifford for one-fourth of a knight's fee in Ispedene, co. Oxon. Osbert called on Elias Gifford of Brimsfield to warrant and stated that Elias Gifford, the grandfather of the Elias that now is, had given the lands in question to his nephew Richard (*Curia Regis Rolls*, 10 Henry III, No. 94). On 2 Sept. 13 Henry III (1229) the King granted to Henry, Bishop of Rochester, Henry de Walepole, Isabel de Frivill and Matilda Gifford, sister of Osbert, executors of Osbert's will, that they pay into the exchequer £20 of what remains to be paid on the fine for the custody of the lands and heir of William de Hastings. (*Excerpt e. Rot. Fin.*, vol. i, p. 186.) In the Easter Term 1232 in Kent, Warine de Mountchensey sued Adam de Kailly and Mabilia his wife, Matilda Gifford and Isabel de Friville for the manor of Luddendon in Kent. The defendants pleaded that the Countess Cecilia gave the manor to Richard Gifford, father of Mabilia, and they offered the charter. They further state that Osbert, son of Richard, did homage for it to the Countess as Richard had done, and that both Richard and Osbert are dead. Richard is stated to be the father of Matilda and Mabilia. (*Bracton's Note Book*, No. 671.) In 13 Henry III (1229) the Sheriff of Kent was ordered to take into the King's hands the carucate of land that was Osbert Gifford's, since he was dead. (*Excerpt. e. Rot. Fin.*, vol. i, p. 186.) In 9 John (1207) Osbert Gifford paid 40 marks to William de Caen for a hide of the manor of Eillesford in Kent. (*Rot. Fin. et Oblat.*, p. 413.) On 4 Sept. 1227, the knights and free tenants of Osbert Gifford in Aylesbury were ordered to attend their lord. (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1225-32, p. 142.) On 17 March 1216 (17 John) a letter of safe conduct was given to Isabel de Freiville, wife of Osbert Gifford, and her attendants, and it was extended 1 June 18 John (1216) to enable her to come and confer with the King regarding the release of her husband Osbert. This Osbert is evidently the one taken at Rochester Castle, concerning whom an order was made 2 Dec. 17 John (1215). (*Rot. Lit. Claus. in tur. Lond. Asser.*)

From the above we learn that this Osbert was of age as early as 1207, and that both he and his father held lands in Kent at Loddeston and Aylesford. He married Isabel de Friville and was one of the barons in rebellion at the close of King John's reign. He died shortly before 2 Sept. 1229, without issue, leaving as his heirs his sisters Matilda Gifford and Mabilia, wife of Adam de Kailly, and his own wife Isabel de Friville. He was clearly not Osbert Gifford, the father of John Gifford le Boef of Twyford.

We now turn to Osbert Gifford, the son of King John, concerning whom the records are very scanty and hardly enough to form any conclusion regarding his family and descendants. He is, I think, the Osbert Gifford who appears in the *Litt. Claus.* at the end of John's reign (1215 and 1216) as his loyal adherent at the very time that Osbert Gifford, son of Richard, was imprisoned for his rebellion at Rochester. In the *Rot. Litt. Claus., in turre Lond. Asservati* is an order to the Sheriff of Oxford to give seisin of the 30 librates of land that were those of Thomas de Arden, to Osbert Gifford son of King John. This was dated 21 Nov. 17 John, and on 1 Feb. 17 John, the Sheriff of Norfolk was ordered to give Osbert Gifford the lands of Thomas de Arden in Bundes; and a similar order was issued to the Sheriffs of Suffolk, Essex and Sussex. On 7 July 18 John, the King issued an order to the Sheriff of Oxfordshire that all the lands of Aumaricus Dispencer and Roger Fitz Nicholas, which Ralph Bloet had in custody and also the lands which the said Ralph had in his own right, were to be given at once to Osbert Gifford the King's son (same, p. 276). These are all the references I have so far obtained regarding his lands. But it is to be observed that Osbert Gifford, who married Isabel de Bocland, had no land in any of these counties except Oxford, and all the Oxfordshire lands of the family came from Alice Murdac, with the exception of Nether Orton. Moreover, the arms used by this Osbert Gifford are entirely different from the arms used by the brothers Osbert Gifford and John Gifford le Boef, whose arms are those of the Brimsfield Giffords, with a label for difference. The arms used by Osbert Gifford, the King's son, were: "Ermine with 2 bars or gimel of Gules and a chief of Gules with a leopard Or in chief." (*Cf., Ancestor*, vol. iii, p. 22.)

The only remaining Osbert Gifford to be considered is Osbert, the brother of Elias Gifford, the Baron of Brimsfield, whom I identify as the Osbert Gifford de Brimsfield of the records.

On 11 May 1229 a grant was made to Osbert Gifford of the livery of a grant which Elias Gifford, *his brother*, made to him of the manor of Winterburn to be held by him and his heirs and assigns at farm with the advowson of the church and other appurtenances except Henry de Bovilla, Walter de Bochampton, Robert de Monte Acuto, Robert la Warre and Adam de Winterbourne, with their holdings, as well as other knights and free tenants, who are without the said manor of Winterbourne and retained by the donor. (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, vol. i, p. 95.) At first sight this appears to refer to the manor of Winterbourne Hueton in co. Dorset that appears in the *Inq. Post Mortem* of 31 Henry III, and it is so indexed in the calendar of the Charter Rolls, but a little reflection will convince one that this is Winterbourne in Wilts, the head of the Brimsfield barony and which was subsequently held by John, Baron of Brimsfield, and this becomes still more certain when we turn to the *Testa de Nevill* and learn that Henry de Bovilla holds one knight's fee in Orcheston of Elias Gifford, who holds of the Earl of Sarum, who holds of the King. This seems to make it clear that the Winterbourne in question is the one in Wiltshire, and conse-

quently this entry does not help us in determining the parentage of Osbert Gifford, who died in 1236-1237, beyond showing us that Elias Gifford of Brimsfield had a brother Osbert. Furthermore, a fine levied at Wilton 15 days after Easter, 20 Henry III (1235-6) between Osbert Gifford, querant, and Reginald de Mohun, deforciant, of the manor of Winterburn Fercles to be held of Reginald at a rent of £14 10s., gives us the source from which Osbert acquired the manor of Winterburn Hueton which his *Inq. Post Mortem* states he held of Reginald de Mohun for £14 10s. yearly rent. (*Cf. Dorset Fines*, p. 61.)

It becomes therefore necessary to look further for the proof that Osbert, who married Isabel de Bocland, was identical with Osbert Gifford, the brother of Elias. The key to the solution of the problem lies, I believe, in the descent of the manor of Syde in the county of Gloucester. In the Gloucester Assize Roll, 5 Henry III (1221) General Wrottesley found a grant by William Peitevin to *Osbert Gifford, brother of Elias*, of all his "land of Side" and in consideration Osbert Gifford paid sixty marks and a horse worth eleven marks. (*Cf. General Wrottesley's Giffords from the Conquest.*) In the *Curia Regis Roll* (11 Henry III, No. 97, m. 10 dorso) *Osbert Gifford of Norfolk* acknowledged that he owed Osbert Gifford of *Brimsfield sixty marks* for a quitclaim of the manor of Syde in Gloucestershire. This is evidently a conveyance by Osbert, brother of Elias, here called of Brimsfield to another Osbert Gifford called of Norfolk, whom I purpose to show was identical with Osbert the son of Richard the Justiciar.

We have already seen that the heirs of Osbert Gifford, son of Richard the Justiciar, were Matilda Gifford and Mabilia, wife of Adam de Kailey, his two sisters. In 1232 Adam de Cailly attorned John de Peitevin against Ralph de Wilinton and Olympia his wife, and Walter le Scott, plaintiffs in the case of Ralph and Olympia, against Adam and Mabel his wife, of one-third part of 2½ hides in Side. Isabel de Friville at the same time attorned Hamo de Wilton and William Fitz Roger against the same plaintiffs for one-third part of 2½ hides in Side, and Mabel de Kaily attorned Simon de Bradehem and Robert de Swenden against Ralph and Olympia for the same. (*Cf. Cal. Close Rolls*, 1231-34, p. 148.)

Turning now to the article of Sir Henry Barkley in the Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society *Transactions*, vol. xiv, p. 33, upon the *Testa de Nevill* in Gloucester, we find that Adam de Kailey held in the *Testa* 3 hides in Side—this was the full extent of the manor in the Domesday. In 1255 Matilda Kaylle passed a fine of half a knight's fee in Side and a quarter of a fee in Stoke Gifford and Brimsfield in favour of one Adam de Crombe, he to pay 100s. required of her by John Gifford and John le Brun. (*Feet of Fines*, Gloucester, 39 Henry III No. 420). In 1285 Simon de Caly held Side and he appears to have been the person who sold it to John Gifford of Brimsfield, who settled it upon his third wife Margaret.

This evidence shews that Osbert Gifford, brother of Elias, acquired land in Side from William Peitevin in 1221. In 11 Henry III he, styled Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield, passed the manor to Osbert Gifford

of Norfolk, from whom it descended to Adam de Kailey and his wife Mabilia, sister of Osbert. The fact that Adam and Mabilia held 3 hides, the full extent of the manor in the Domesday, shows that Osbert Gifford, brother of Elias, must have acquired the entire manor in 1221, and we see that Osbert, brother of Elias Gifford of Brimsfield, is identical with the Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield. On 3 January, 14 Henry III, the King confirmed his charter to *Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield*, for his homage and service for 22 shillings rent and one carucate of land with appurtenances in Pichenecumb which Ralph de Verney once held in bail of King John, he rendering to the King by the Sheriff of Gloucester *pro tem.* 5 shillings (*Cf. Cal. Close Rolls, 1227-31, p. 279*). And we have seen that the Inquisition of Osbert Gifford and Alice Murdac, taken in 31 Henry III, shows Osbert as holding in Pichenecumb 1 carucate of the King by socage, rendering 5 shillings rent. So we may now conclude that Osbert Gifford, brother of Elias, also called Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield, was identical with Osbert Gifford, the son-in-law of Alice Murdac and the father of Osbert and John Gifford le Boef.

We may now turn to the *Catalogue of the Records of the Corporation of Gloucester*, p. 119, and we find a grant from *Hosbert Gifford, son of Elias*, of all his land in the manor of Brimsfield to the Hospital of St. Bartholomew for the souls of William de Bruere (Briwere) and of Helias Gifford and Maud his wife, mother of the said Osbert, and for the souls of *Osbert and Isabel his wife*. This was confirmed by Elias Gifford, Lord of Brimsfield, for his soul and the souls of his wives, Isabell, Alice and Yseud. This grant is apparently subsequent to 1226 as William de Briwere died in that year.

In 6 Henry III (1221-2) the King ordered the Sheriff of Gloucester to deliver Matilda, who was the wife of Richard de Acton, to Elias Gifford and Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield. Her sureties are Osbert Gifford of Norfolk, Elias Gifford, Gilbert Gifford, Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield, and Elias de Cailloe. (*Rot. Litt. Claus.*, 6 Henry III.) The assize roll for 5 Henry III shows that Matilda was the daughter of Elyas de Cailleway (*Cf. Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society's Transactions, vol. xi, p. 331*) and the pedigree printed by General Wrottesley from the suit to determine the heir to the Barony of Brimsfield in the reign of Edward III states that Berta, sister of Elias Gifford, who married Alice Maltravers, had a son, Elias Cailway. (*Cf. Wrottesley's Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls, p. 61 of the reprinted edition, and The Genealogist, N.S., vol. x, p. 88.*)

It may be well to observe in the above records that the name of the wife of Osbert Gifford, brother of Elias, was Isabel, and there can be no doubt that she was Isabel de Bocland, as the other Osbert, namely, the son of Richard, had married Isabel de Friville and died without issue.

There still remains two statements of General Wrottesley's to be considered. First, he naturally supposed that the Twyford family descended from Osbert, son of Richard, because they owned land in the Isle of Sheppey, and Richard is found owning land there in the *Liber*

Rubeus. But the tenements held by the Twyford Giffords at a later date in Leisdon were originally part of the barony of Arsic and came from the marriage of John le Boef the younger with Alexandra de Gardinis, one of the heiresses of the Arsics. (*Cf. Inq. Post Mortem* Thomas de Gardinis; *Cal. Inq.*, vol. vii, Ed. III, p. 107.)

Again, General Wrottesley states that Osbert Gifford of Brimsfield could have left no descendants, otherwise they would have been heirs to the barony of Brimsfield. This seems reasonable and is difficult to explain unless, as must have been the case, Osbert Gifford was only half-brother of Elias, in which event Berta de Cailway, if his full sister, and her descendants, would be the heirs of the lands of the Brimsfield Giffords, as was subsequently decided.

The wife of Elias Gifford, mother of Osbert, was, as the Gloucester grant shows, named Maud, and she is evidently the Matilda Gifford holding half of Helidon, one of the manors of the Twyford Giffords in later times, in 1199. She was apparently holding it as part of her dower, and in the *Testa de Nevill* we find Isabel Gifford holding a moiety of Helidon. This is evidently Isabel Bocland holding it as dower.

So far as I know, the ancestry of Maud, the second wife of Elias Gifford, has never been discovered, but in the *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. i, p. 123, we find that Thomas de Berkeley gave the manor of Foxcote to his nephew, Osbert Gifford, his sister's son, and the author gives as his authority a charter in Berkeley Castle. This accounts for the item in the Inquisition of 31 Henry III which shows that Osbert Gifford held Foxcote of Maurice de Berkeley. There can be no doubt but that Maud, second wife of Elias Gifford of Brimsfield, the father of Elias and Osbert Gifford, and the mother of Osbert, was the daughter of Maurice de Berkeley or FitzHarding, who died in 1189.

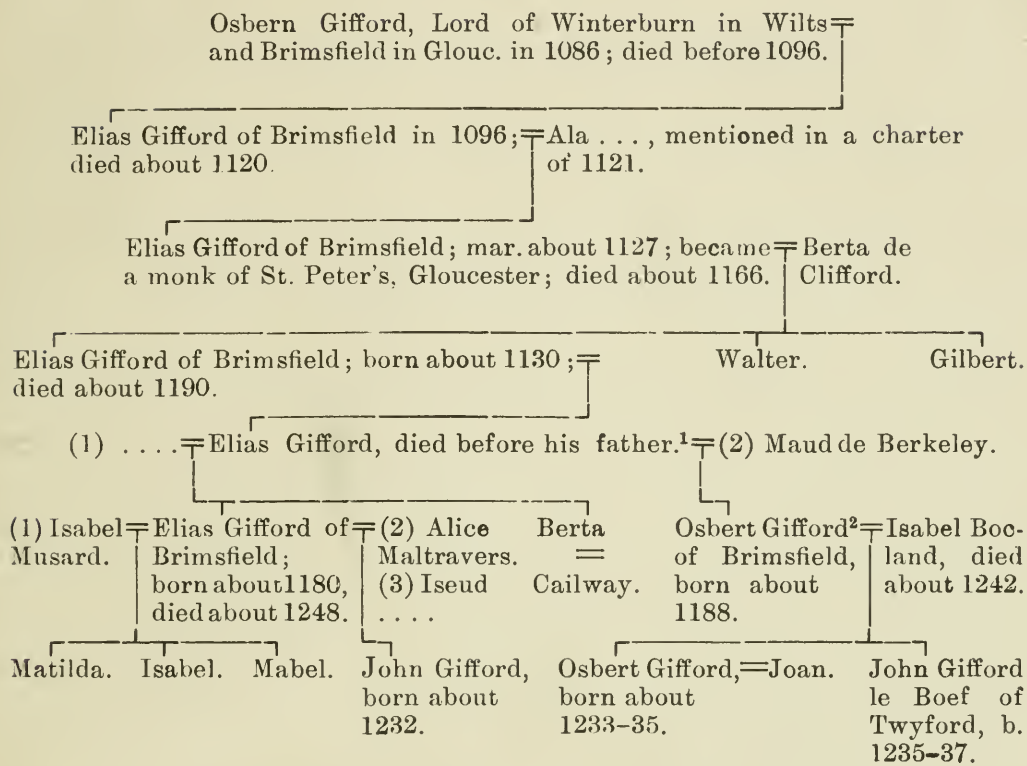
The descent of John Gifford of Twyford being, as I submit, now traced back to the Giffords of Brimsfield, it is not out of place to discuss briefly the descent of that family with a view to determining how many Elias Giffords were Lords of Brimsfield, but this paper is not a suitable one for an extended story of the Brimsfield family, which has been treated by many antiquaries from Dugdale downward; but the splendour of that descent from the Domesday tenant, Osbern Gifford, who undoubtedly came as a young man in the array of the old Earl Walter, the head of the house of Gifford, renders the family worthy of more critical study than has hitherto been bestowed upon it.

The proof of the descent of the Barons of Brimsfield in the earlier generations rests entirely upon the charters preserved in the Cartulary of St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester, of which institution the Brimsfield Giffords were liberal benefactors. From this Cartulary we learn that Osbern Gifford, the Domesday tenant, and who, as his descendant stated in 5 Henry III, "*Venit ad conquestam Angliæ*," was dead by 1096, and his heir, Elias Gifford was the Lord of Brimsfield. This Elias we further learn was alive in 1121 with his wife Ala. But the Pipe Roll of 31 Henry I shows that he died about this time (1129) as his son Elias then paid relief. This second Elias married, as has been shown by the eminent English antiquary, Mr. J. Horace Round, about

1127, Berta de Clifford, the daughter of Richard Fitz Pons, the ancestor of the great house of Clifford, and her mother was Maud, sister of Milo de Gloucester, Earl of Hereford, and the daughter of Walter, the Sheriff, the friend and counsellor of Henry I. This Walter was in turn the son of that Roger de Pistres who came from Pitres, a village on the Seine by the Pont de l'Arche, near Rouen, to the great battle in the array of William FitzOsbern, the friend and counsellor of Duke William and the future viceroy of England. The philosopher contemplating the mutability of human greatness may find food for reflection when he sees the fall of the great house of FitzOsbern even within the life-time of the Conqueror, while by the same march of human events the descendants of his follower, Roger de Pistres, were destined to occupy one of the highest places among the nobles of the Norman and Angevin kings and eventually to mingle their blood with the royal race of Plantagenet. The story of the house of FitzOsbern has been critically and dramatically told by Mr. Round, in his "Peerage Studies," in the paper entitled *The Family of Ballon*. But this is a digression.

We find now that Elias Gifford, the second, was married to Berta de Clifford in or about 1127, and that he succeeded his father in 1129. This Elias became a monk of St. Peter's about 1153, and died about 1166, and his son paid relief for livery of his lands in 12 Henry II (1166-67). This Elias must have died in turn in or about 2 Richard I leaving an infant heir, because in the Pipe Roll for the year (1190-91) we have an entry that reads: "Elias Gifford, William the Marshall for scutage, £4 10s. of scutage." In 4 Richard I William the Marshall rendered on account of 40 marks for the custody of the land of Helye Gifford. As late as the Pipe Roll of 3 John (1200) we find that "Elyas Gifford owes 18 marks of scutage, but William the Marshall has the land of the said Elias in custody and is therefore quit by writ of Geoffrey FitzPeter."

This young Elias is evidently the one who died some time before 32 Henry III and was the father of John the Baron of Brimsfield, who was born about 1232, for the Pipe Roll up to the year 32 Henry III shows no payments of relief for the livery of the inheritance of the lands of the Barony of Brimsfield. This situation makes the construction of the pedigree difficult from the chronological point of view. Elias the third, the son of Elias the second and Berta his wife, must in the logical course of events have been born somewhere between 1127 and 1140. He died in or about 1190, leaving an heir, Elias Gifford, who was under age as late as 1200-1; so he must have been born between 1179 and 1190, evidently some few years before 1190. Now it does not seem likely that Elias the third, born probably about 1130, should have no son born until 1179, and I conclude therefore that between Elias the third and Elias, who was under age in 1200-1, there was another Elias, son of Elias the third, and father of the last Elias, who died in the lifetime of his father, before the year 1190, and I conclude that this Elias is the father of Elias and Osbert Gifford and that his second wife was Maud de Berkeley. Following these deductions, I submit the following chart of the Brimsfield Giffords:—



¹ Against this theory it should be noted that in the *Curia Regis* case of 10 Henry III, Richard, the Justiciar, is called the nephew of Elias Gifford, the grandfather of Elias Gifford who died about 1248, and as Richard was a Justiciar as early as 1172 he would appear to be the nephew of Elias Gifford who married Berta de Clifford.

² The Berkeley Charter, whereby Thomas de Berkeley gave Foxcote to his nephew, Osbert Gifford, and which is dated about 1220, shows that Osbert had a first wife named Lucy.

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